

## Grass Cutting



At Kitty Hawk, N.C., an XB-15 makes a low pass—sometimes called “cutting the grass”—near the monument to the 1903 Wright brothers’ flight. The Boeing aircraft was a one-of-a-kind and first flew in October 1937. Its innovative features included a sleeping area for the crew and a flight engineer’s station, as well as enough room in the wings for the aircrew to access the engines in flight. The XB-15 could carry a

heavier load (more than 31,000 pounds) to higher altitude (8,200 feet) than any aircraft at the time. Other aircraft soon outperformed it, so the bomber didn’t go into production. The XB-15 nevertheless served as a transport in World War II and is considered the ancestor to the B-17 and other heavy bombers.